

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 2-33, 35, 37, and 39 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-9 are placed in independent form. Claims 2-6 and 11-13 have been amended to change their dependency. Claims 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 29, 33, and 37 have been amended to correct punctuation and minor wording. Claims 1, 34, 36, and 38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-4, 11, 12, 13, 34, 36, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto Eiji (JP 07-306058, hereafter “Eiji”). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eiji and further in view of Sugaya (US 2003/0044211). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eiji and further in view of Lino (US 2003/0052287). Claims 7-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14-33, 35, 37, and 39 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 7, 8, and 9 are rewritten in independent form. Dependent Claims 2-6 and 11-13 have been amended to depend on allowable Claims 7 or 8. Rejected Claims 34, 36, and 38 have been canceled.

Therefore, all pending Claims 2-33, 35, 37, and 39 have been indicated as allowable or amended to contain allowable subject matter.

Finally, the specification has been amended on pages 25 and 54 to correct minor informalities.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

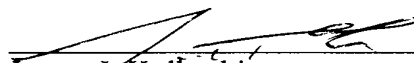
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